

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assaying a test compound for an effect on hypertension parameters, said method comprising:
  - (a) providing a Dahl Salt-sensitive<sup>HSD</sup> ~~rat non-human mammal~~ whose genome comprises a functional ~~functionally~~ variant  $\alpha 1$  Na,K-ATPase hypertension susceptibility gene;
  - (b) administering said test compound to said ~~rat non-human mammal~~; and
  - (c) determining whether the test compound affects hypertension parameters in said ~~rat non-human mammal~~ relative to hypertension parameters in a ~~rat non-human mammal~~ whose genome comprises a wild type  $\alpha 1$  Na,K-ATPase gene.
- 2-4 (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said hypertension parameters are blood pressure, life span, or renal pathology.